

Volunteer Legal Internships

Capital Case Section

Criminal Division

U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC

The Capital Case Section (“CCS”) assists the Attorney General’s Review Committee on Capital Cases in evaluating potential death penalty matters. As such, the Section analyzes all cases in which a U.S. Attorney charges a crime punishable by death and advises the Committee about factual and legal issues relevant to its recommendation to the Attorney General regarding pursuit of the death penalty. CCS attorneys also provide guidance to U.S. Attorneys’ Offices engaged in protocol review.

Additionally, CCS provides direct litigation support to U.S. Attorneys’ Offices litigating capital cases. This support takes various forms, depending upon the needs of the case. CCS employs prosecutors who have previously tried capital cases and are available to serve as co-counsel in death penalty prosecutions. CCS supports all phases of pre-trial litigation, provides guidance in selecting death-qualified juries and helps organize penalty-phase evidentiary presentations.

CCS also provides training and resource materials to federal prosecutors engaged in capital litigation. As part of that mission, the Section manages an extensive intranet site that catalogs trial and appellate materials related to federal death penalty prosecutions.

Projected No. of Volunteers:	Fall: 2; Spring: 2; Summer 2-3
Internship Location(s):	Washington, D.C.
Application Materials:	Applicants should e-mail a cover letter, resume, legal writing sample (10 pages or less), and law school transcript to Jeffrey.Kahan@usdoj.gov (Attn: Jeffrey Kahan).
Qualifications:	Applicants for law internship positions must be enrolled in law school and have: (1) a strong academic background; (2) excellent research and writing skills; and (3) a sincere interest in criminal law.
Application Deadlines:	Fall: June 1; Spring: October 1; Summer: February 15
Minimum Weeks Required:	10 to 12 weeks
Academic credit:	We work with law schools to fulfill the requirements necessary for credit.
Assignments:	Interns work directly with attorneys on issues pertaining to cases in litigation and under review for potential pursuit of the death penalty. They also assist in creating training materials for prosecutors. The Section is small, and the work varies with existing demands.

